



Governor Ernie Fletcher presents Bobbie Beth Soggins with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Artists Day proclamation

Bobbie Beth's Tidbits...

As I take time to reflect on DeaFestival 2006 and consider the comments I received and those passed onto me by my staff, performers and volunteers. I know that the hundreds of hours worked to produce DeaFestival Kentucky 2006 were worth the effort! In case you weren't present at the Kentucky Center or Belvedere, let me recap some of the events. If you were there, perhaps you will recognize the same scenarios or maybe it was you who made a comment. Let's take a tour...

On July 1, 2006, let's transport through the main doors of the Kentucky Center in Louisville, KY. As you entered, you may have seen the horse from DeaFestival 2004 which still stands outside in the corner of the front steps. Some of the artists that participated in designing that artwork were at DeaFestival 2006, and some new artists attended this year for the first time. As you

moved inside the Kentucky Center you saw the Visual Artists Venue where artists set up their work ranging from oil and water paintings, mixed media, stained glass, woodworking, sculptures, masks, batik, tie-dye, jewelry, metal work and graphic design.

Moving through the lobby you experienced technology at work as deaf access stations demonstrated videoconferencing, a means of talking through computers that allows deaf and hard of hearing individuals equal access to communication in American Sign Language and captions. In the glassed enclosure of the lobby corner, our major sponsors (Hamilton, T-Mobile and BellSouth) demonstrated and sold communications equipment and provided information on accessible events.

Exiting the lobby doors you moved onto the Belvedere and were transported into a mythical land of snow and imagination as you walked through the wardrobe...and into the *Land of Narnia, the Lion and the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Inside the castle you found a Faun, the Ice Queen, Mr. Beaver, Aslan the Lion and four curious children (Edmund, Peter, Lucy and Susan) exploring a new land of imagination. The performers led participants and even the Governor, through stories stressing education and diversity, as well as playing games outside which encouraged reading skills and included a diversity puzzle.

During Opening Ceremonies, the Honorable Governor Ernie Fletcher "signed" his welcome remarks to the crowd and became the first Governor to attend DeaFestival Kentucky, proclaiming July 1st as the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day. He and other dignitaries such as Senate Majority Floor Leader Dan Kelly, Tommy Clark from the Louisville Mayor's Office and Sally Hamilton representing Secretary Virginia G. Fox of the Education Cabinet made this day a special day. Hamilton Relay presented to the Kentucky office a beautifully commissioned life sized sculpture of a professional woman entitled "That," a hand gesture in American Sign Language that describes something that is so perfect there is no other translation for the meaning. "THAT's what I'm talking about" is Hamilton Relay's motto and represents what communication is truly about for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

As you left the Children's tent you might have stopped to chat with new and old friends at the deaf tent, where attendees gathered to eat,

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Bobbie Beth's Tidbits

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drink and catch up on each others' lives. Each time I passed this tent it was FULL of people deep in conversation. DeaFestival really is a reunion of sorts for our community! In fact, I'm not sure these people come to see the performances...but rather come to visit and talk with one another.

Looking down the Belvedere you may have seen tents, each containing craft artists, vendors and exhibitors with a wide range of goods for sale and valuable information to distribute. Even the heat of the day did not deter the crowds from browsing and purchasing something to take home.

As you slipped back inside to the cool Kentucky Center lobby and climbed the stairs to the Bomhart Theatre, you may have felt the Wild Zappers performing on the SpotLights stage! You may have discussed some of the earlier performances you saw earlier in the day. Perhaps you felt the vibes of the National Deaf Dance Theater, or laughed with Pinky Aiello as she showed us what video relay interpreting is all about. Perhaps you felt a connection to Sherry Hicks and her CODA upbringing and the humor it entails or saw "Mabel" at her best! Perhaps you saw Levi and Clay Anderson (twins) as they described interpreting from their mother's womb. Or maybe you felt the "spirits" as James Gillies told deaf ghost stories dressed in traditional Scottish attire.

Or maybe you saw the Deaf Professional performance, presented by Hamilton Relay...*Dare to Dream ...I Wanna Be!* If so, you must have felt the *goose bumps* as each student looked into the eyes of their role model and said...I CAN do that?!! I can be a pilot, a teacher, a professional athlete, an engineer...I can really be a doctor, a lawyer, a veterinarian, an artist or a professional dancer! I can dream that dream and succeed? I can do whatever

I want to do? YES, YES YOU CAN was the answer! With hard work and encouragement you CAN DO ANYTHING! One student told me, "I've never even met a deaf adult before today. I didn't know there were grownups like me and I never dreamed someone deaf could become a doctor! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to meet these people at DeaFestival. Now I can go home and tell my parents I CAN be a doctor, I MET ONE at DeaFestival!" We received a lot of positive feedback from that segment, including comments from the professionals themselves who felt like DeaFestival KY truly does make a difference in peoples lives! This is NICE to know!

Regardless of what you saw, each event was filled with laughter, music and most of all love of performance! No matter what your perspective, if you attended you couldn't help becoming part of DeaFestival 2006 and we hope you felt the impact the festival has on the entire community!!! Please check the website, www.deafestival.org, to see if your thoughts were captured. If not, please contact us and give us your feedback.

DeaFestival-Kentucky 2006 is done...but the memories are still with us ALL!!

Commission Staff

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Kentucky School for the Deaf

Pancake and Bazaar



Sponsored by KSD, KSDAA, and Jacobs Hall Museum Committees

Friday, November 17, 2006

6:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Grow Hall Cafeteria, 202 South 2nd Street, Danville, KY 40422

\$3.00 per person and children 0-2 free

Tickets will be sold by KSD Staff, KSDAA, Jacobs Hall Museum Committee, or you can buy them at the door.

\$30.00 for Crafts/Bazaar table or \$45.00 for 2 tables. Please contact Rhonda Bodner to reserve tables.

Deadline is November 10th. For more information:

KSD (859) 239-7017 (V/T)

Rhonda.Bodner@ksd.kyschools.us or RSBODNER@aol.com
cdotson@tmail.com



1st Midwestern Regional Black Deaf Advocates Conference

Held in Alsip, IL on July 19-22, 2006

Seven Kentuckians attended the first Midwest Black Deaf Advocates Regional Conference held in Alsip, IL. Other states in attendance were Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio. These states all have local chapters under the National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) organization. Informational workshops were available at the conference as well as a fashion show and banquet.

Kentucky's Black Deaf Advocate (KYBDA) chapter was established in 2005 and became the 31st state chapter under the NBDA. Great News! At this year's conference the KYBDA chapter won the bid to host the next Regional Conference, which will be held in Louisville, Kentucky in 2008!!

Encourage your friends and family to become members of KYBDA and attend the conference in 2008. If you need additional information please contact the KYBDA President, Bobby Green, Sr. by email at BCRL48@aol.com.



Kentuckians in attendance are from left to right: Sharon White, Nancy Miller, Louis "Buddy" Miller, Margaret Steptoe, Thomas Steptoe, Pam Green, and Bobby Green, Sr.

You...Your Family...Your Neighbors

Guest Editorial by Paula Esterle



Recently KCDHH sponsored a talk by Mr. Fred Roy, former director of Commission on Deaf in Louisiana. Love of food and hurricane preparations were ordinarily the primary concerns of folks from his native N'awlins. Beyond sharing the charms and then the tales of devastation which occurred last year following Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Roy brought an urgent request that we assume personal responsibility for our own safety which is the most crucial element of survival in any emergency we may face. It might be a situation of great magnitude involving an entire community or it may concern only one person desperately needing communication access during a hospital stay or a car accident. Planning must begin on a daily basis for you, your family and your neighbors.

Deaf and hard of hearing people have unique needs and can be proportionally disadvantaged in an emergency situation due to communication challenges. Information is critical and must be exchanged instantaneously and continuously. Our best preparations for access and supplies must begin today. If we don't have hearing aid batteries, hearing aid cleaning material, captioned weather alerts, assistive listening devices, battery powered captioned TV's, before a disaster, we won't have them during a disaster.

The ever popular blame game was productively omitted by Mr. Roy in his

positive instructions as it is too easy for us as individual citizens to only find fault with authorities in place of assuming our own responsibilities. Proactively, we can assemble our own action steps to gaining communication accessibility Everyday rather than waiting for a catastrophe to point out inadequacies. He recounts reports that FEMA had promised trained interpreters in case of disasters but they were not produced because they had not been trained in advance.

During the horrific aftermath, it was learned that there were facilities available for sick and disabled people but they were largely empty early on because knowledge of their existence was not disseminated properly beforehand. Are we each doing our part on a daily basis to educate society as to what we need in order to be self sufficient in advance of an emergency?



Attendees listened to Mr. Fred Roy's important message.

As we carefully create our independence prior to dire circumstances, Mr. Roy suggests that we participate in the political process of policy making by formally gathering and debating matters of importance to the deaf and hard of hearing community. Agreement and cohesion are valuable in formulating legislation and can only be arrived at through



earnest communication. We create our independence before an emergency.

Technology can aid us in our struggle with communication. Shockingly, Mr. Roy points out that video phones were invented in 1947! How long it has taken to for us to even approach affordability of these devices. Do we understand the proposed "Reverse 911" as an alerting system? Maybe adequate defense would be for all deaf and hard of hearing to carry vibrating cell phones or pagers in case of emergency. How would this be affordable? How expensive is it to rebuild a citizenry?

Being an active member of the Hearing Loss Association of America (formerly SHHH)

has taught me specific things that hard of hearing people can benefit greatly from such as CART, Caption Mic. and the Captel phone. Other organizations such as NAD, AGBell etc also

have great power to educate us. The KCDHH is currently sponsoring a Study Group focused on Emergency Preparedness. We owe it to ourselves to ask about the progress of the group and learn from its conclusions and recommendations.

Take concrete action today by listing what is needed to survive an upheaval in your life.



Education Cabinet NEWS RELEASE State executive director elected to national post



FRANKFORT, Ky. (Aug. 15, 2006) — Bobbie Beth Scoggins, the executive director of the Kentucky Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing, has been elected president of the National Association of the Deaf, a non-profit advocacy organization.

Scoggins of Frankfort was elected during the organization's recent annual membership meeting in California. NAD was founded in 1880 and has a membership of about 25,000, including the members of affiliate organizations. NAD is a national federation of state associations, individual members, and organizational and corporate affiliates that promotes, protects and preserves the rights and quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing Americans. For more information on the association, visit <http://www.nad.org>.

Scoggins served as a regional representative on the NAD board for two years before being elected president of the association. Scoggins term as president will end in 2008.

"I am honored to be elected to serve as president of the National Association of the Deaf. Clearly, accomplishments of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing played a role

in my selection," said Scoggins.

In 1993 Scoggins became executive director of KCDHH, the state commission that provides leadership, education, advocacy and direct services to Kentuckians who are deaf and hard of hearing. KCDHH is an agency of the Kentucky Education Cabinet.

"Executive Director Scoggins is an outstanding advocate for the deaf and hard of hearing community, not only in Kentucky but nationwide. Her talents and expertise are invaluable to our state so it is not surprising that her colleagues would choose her to lead this national organization. I think it says a lot about our state when Kentucky officials are tapped for the top regional and national positions in their respective fields," said Kentucky Education Cabinet Secretary Virginia G. Fox.

Scoggins earned a bachelor's degree

in psychology in 1978 and a master's degree in administration and supervision in 1988 from California State University. She earned a doctorate of education in institutional management in 1992 from Pepperdine University.

For more information about KCDHH services, contact the commission toll-free at 1-800-372-2907 (V/T) or 502-573-2604 (V/T) or online at www.kcdhh.ky.gov.

The Education Cabinet coordinates learning programs from P-16, and manages and supports training and employment functions in the Department for Workforce Investment.

For more information about our programs:

www.educationcabinet.ky.gov

www.kcdhh.ky.gov

or

502-564-6606

Ever want to tell a Story? Well....here's your chance!

Come to the KY Storytelling Association Conference on November 3rd and 4th and you can tell any story you want, plus hear other people tell stories and learn about the history and preservation of storytelling.

If you would like to be a presenter and you are deaf or hard of hearing, please contact KCDHH for more information.

kcdhh@kcdhh.ky.gov



Kentucky Storytelling Association

3rd Annual Conference

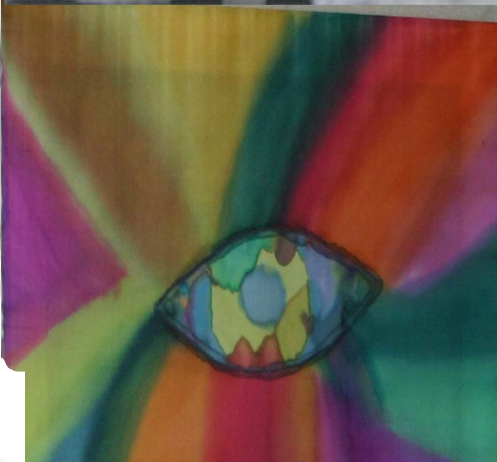
November 3-4, 2006

Owensboro, Kentucky

"Whether you love to hear stories or tell stories, you need to be there."

*Interpreters Available for All Sessions

For more information: http://www.kystory.org/wst_page2.html





New Name... NewFace?!

Effective July 1st, the name of the program was changed from the Kentucky TDD Distribution Program to the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP). This change is more inclusive of all people with hearing losses. Also, the KCDHH received additional funding from Governor Ernie Fletcher and the 2006 General Assembly effective this fiscal year and next fiscal year to effectively manage the TAP and provide more equipment to you. In addition to this, the funding mechanism for TAP was also revised allowing the KCDHH to collect two cents per residential telephone line through June 30, 2008.

As a result, the TAP application materials are now being revised to reflect the new name change. Administrative regulations are now being formulated with a target date to be completed by October 2006. All the changes are to better serve you. One of those changes is that the TAP will be moving to a paperless process of handling applications. KCDHH is now

working with the Education Cabinet Information Technology staff to develop a new database which will have scanning capabilities. This approach will allow the agency to

streamline the application process and reduce the amount of paper stored in KCDHH offices. The TAP staff will also be able to obtain information

directly from the paper application, which will improve accuracy and reduce human error.

KCDHH looks forward to this new high level of standards for serving the deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians by implementing this new innovative way to ensure that the equipment is distributed to you in NO time! Please visit the web site, www.kcdhh.org for further information on TAP.

Directors' Meeting

State Commissions or Agencies Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing

During the National Association of the Deaf biennial convention this summer, the Directors of State Commissions or Agencies Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing met in Palm Desert, California. The KCDHH Executive Director attended this meeting. State representatives were asked to share issues that they were addressing to determine if there were common issues among states. The idea of creating a new organization entitled, "National Association of State Agencies" was discussed as well as proposed by-laws. This concept as well as the creation of a Directors' listserv was well-received by the agencies participating.

At the meeting, Gary Sanderson, Interim Director of the National Center on Deafness discussed leadership training issues. The National Leadership Training Program at National Center on Deafness at California State

University at Northridge was started in the 1960's. It was designed to educate deaf and hard of hearing administrators in the field of deaf education to become qualified school administrators. This program was funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The funding was discontinued in 1990. Since then, there has been a huge lack of qualified administrators in educational programs across the U.S. As a result, a needs assessment survey has been developed to determine if there is a need to develop/continue a program to train leaders to become qualified in key positions impacting deaf education.

Nancy Bloch, the Executive Director of the National Association of the Deaf discussed national issues from the NAD perspective. Among these issues were current trends with the Federal Communications Commission with regard to video relay services and CapTel services. She also discussed the need for more interpreter training programs and a need for state commissions to develop a collaborative relationship with the National Association of the Deaf in order to push a national agenda on advocacy issues.

The State Commissions, after discussion and prioritization, identified a national agenda to address the needs of deaf and hard of hearing



Attendees from various states listen to the presenters.

Americans to include local emergency preparedness and the need for MORE interpreters by building greater interpreting training program infrastructure throughout the country.

Shared Reading Project a parent's perspective smoothing the bumpy road

by Cynthia A. Jones

Despite all of my teaching experience—even with children with special needs—I've learned daily that it is an entirely different ball game when you are on the parent's side of the fence. When my daughter, Molly, was born deaf, I experienced a wide array of thoughts, fears, and emotions. By the time we left the hospital, Molly, who was one of the first babies to be born after Kentucky implemented universal newborn hearing screening, had failed three hearing tests. I was told to bring her back in a couple of weeks because sometimes babies have debris in their ears from the birthing process which can interfere with the hearing screening. I remember telling my husband on the way home, "We'd better hope and pray she's not deaf, because if she is deaf, she's got a long, hard road ahead of her." Molly is indeed deaf, and although the road has not been easy for any of us, many people and programs have smoothed the way. One of these programs has been the Shared Reading Project.

I found a class and slowly began learning. As a teacher I have always known the importance of reading to children, and from the time I brought her home from the hospital, I read to Molly regularly. Even though I knew she could not hear the words, I still felt



Cynthia A. Jones is a special education teacher in a high school setting. Molly Jones, her 4-year old daughter, was born deaf. She was introduced to the Shared Reading Project by Sue Frisbee, director of the Northern Kentucky Regional Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, located at River Ridge Elementary School, Villa Hills, Kentucky.

it was important for me to read to her. If nothing else, she would get visual stimulation from the pictures and we would have the quality time together. As I began to learn new signs, I tried to incorporate them into the stories. However, I found it challenging, to say the least, to hold her on my lap with one arm, hold the book with the other, and attempt to sign, all at the same time.

That is when the Shared Reading Project came to the rescue! Considering my limited knowledge of American Sign Language, I admit I was nervous at the thought of a deaf adult coming into my home. How would we communicate? Would he be amused at my feeble attempts at signing? Would I be able to understand him?

On the day of the first visit, Lewis Fowler, my tutor, came to my home with Sue Frisbee, the director of the Northern Kentucky Regional Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Sue, my sign language instructor since Molly

was 15 months old, introduced us, pointed out that her purpose during this visit was not to interpret for the two of us, and then entertained my daughter while Lewis and I got to know each other. Soon, all of my questions were answered and my anxieties calmed. The first thing Lewis insisted that I do was relax! He was not here to look down on my limited signing abilities; he was here to help me communicate with my daughter through basic parent-child activity: reading.

Each week when Lewis came to my house, he would show me the book he had selected, read through it with me, and then have me read it back to him, all in American Sign Language. After a few weeks, he stopped reading the book to me first and simply had me read to him, helping me as needed along the way. He was able to show me how to handle holding my daughter and the book while signing the story to her. He showed me how to sign not just in front of Molly's face, but also on the book, on her, or on me, wherever appropriate. I learned I did not need three hands to sign a bedtime story to my daughter after all!

Just as important, I could practice sign language in a genuine setting—my home—as opposed to in a classroom. Lewis taught me many new signs and encouraged me to use them. He also encouraged me to practice my fingerspelling. I have always heard that the best way to learn a language is in a setting with native speakers. I am now convinced that this is true! Without an interpreter present, I was compelled to rely on my own signing ability and use various strategies for clarifying when I did not understand a word or a concept. The signs *again* and *slow down* quickly became part of my repertoire,



KENTUCKY

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Shared Reading Project

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and there was always paper and pencil as a last resort.

Once I began learning sign language, I made an effort to expose my daughter to other deaf people. In addition to wanting her to grow up knowing other deaf people, I also wanted her to see other people signing fluently. She is certainly more likely to learn what will be her native language from other native users than she is to learn it from me, with my intermediate skill level (Williams, 1994; Goldin-Meadow & Mayberry, 2001).

Thus, an important benefit I gained from the Shared Reading Project was my friendship with Lewis and his wife, Alma. Through our visits Lewis and I got to know each other. We spent a great deal of time each visit just chatting about everyday things. Alma sometimes joined her husband, making the visits even more meaningful. Although Lewis is no longer our tutor, we still keep in contact through e-mail and see each other occasionally at events within the deaf community. We have become friends.

An added benefit of the Shared Reading Project and my friendship with Lewis and Alma has been my own peace of mind. Like any parent, I have wondered what the future will hold for my daughter. I want her to be successful and live up to her potential. When I found out she was deaf, my concerns were intensified. When I discovered that many deaf children do not learn to read well, my concerns intensified yet again. However, meeting a successful deaf couple has renewed my hope that Molly will be successful in her life.

Lewis's visits, his guidance in learning sign language, and the friendship I developed with him and his wife have all worked together to encourage me to step out of my comfort zone and talk with deaf people. The more I talk with deaf people, the more I am *able* to talk with them. As a result, my signing skills have improved to the point where I can use complex ideas and concepts with my daughter. Because I can *sign* entire sentences, Molly can now understand entire sentences. When Molly beats the odds—and she *will* beat the odds—and becomes a sophisticated reader, I will



have the Shared Reading Project—and Lewis—to thank.

Reprinted with the author's permission from ODYSSEY magazine, Vol. 7, Issue 1, Fall/Winter 2006.

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- Williams, C.L. (1994). The language and literacy worlds of three profoundly deaf preschool children. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 29, 125-155.

Emergency Preparedness: Your Rights and Responsibilities

On September 9, 2006 KCDHH and Kentucky Black Deaf Advocates (KYBDA) sponsored a workshop entitled, "Emergency Preparedness: Your Rights and Responsibilities" in Louisville. The KCDHH Executive Director welcomed the participants and introduced the KYBDA President, Mr. Bobby Green. Mr. Green introduced the KYBDA Board members, Suzanne Mayes, Vice President; Vernon Gordon, Secretary; Louis "Buddy" Miller, Treasurer and Sharon White, Chapter Representative.

Workshop participants shared experiences they and/or their families have had regarding disasters or

emergencies and talked about the importance of preparing for these events ahead of time.

Ms. Claudia L. Gordon, Esq., from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security was introduced, and she gave a



Claudia Gordon presents workshop on emergency preparedness.

wonderful PowerPoint presentation related to how we can better prepare ourselves in the event of an emergency or disaster. Ms. Gordon gave a

demonstration with a backpack to show some of the key items we should have. This is called the "72 Hour Kit" and is something all homes should have prepared and on hand in case of an emergency. Some of the items included in the backpack were: first aid kit, water, flashlight, glow stick, can opener, nutrition bars, whistle, emergency blanket, plastic baggies, photocopies of important paper (drivers license, medicine list, deeds, insurance papers).

For more information on preparing kits for your family and your home, please visit this webpage: <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html>.

2006 Calendar of Events



September

22nd - Cincinnati Reds Silent Diners' Night

23rd - Louisville Association of the Deaf Social

25th-29th - Maya & Miguel "Give Me A Little Sign"

October

6th-7th - All Terrain Kentucky Deaf Outlaw Riders Riding and Camping

14th - Louisville Association of the Deaf Social

28th - Louisville Association of the Deaf Halloween Party



November

3rd-4th - KY Storytelling Assoc. 3rd Annual Conference

11th - Louisville Association of the Deaf Thanksgiving Dinner

17th - Kentucky School for the Deaf Pancake and Bazaar

December

9th - Louisville Association of the Deaf Christmas

31st - SouthEastern Kentucky Deaf Community's New Year's Eve Party and Social

31st - Valley View Church Deaf Ministry New Year's Eve Party

31st - Louisville Association of the Deaf New Year's Eve Party



<http://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/home/bulletin.html>

Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

632 Versailles Road
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
#149

An agency of the Kentucky Education Cabinet

Deaf Awareness Week



Give Me A Little Sign

The groundbreaking new episode of the award-winning series *Maya & Miguel*, “Give Me A Little Sign,” will premiere on Monday, September 25 on PBS KIDS GO! (check local listings) and will be broadcast in open caption in honor of National Deaf Awareness Week (September 24 – September 30). The episode will be repeated each day for the remainder of the week (in closed caption) to officially kick-off *Maya & Miguel*’s third season, which begins with all new episodes on October 2.

Made possible by:



www.pbskidsgo.org/mayaandmiguel.com



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